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Eugene Watson Writes the Editor a Letter

Natchitoches, Louisiana

February 27, 1941

Mr. Robert J. Usher, Editor

"L. L. A. Bulletin"

Dear Mr. Usher:

This morning your letter arrived asking that I write an article of not more than 3,000 words for the March issue of the L. L. A. Bulletin. I am a bit nonplussed because just at the moment I am not "bubbling over" with a desire to say anything. Since the Bulletin is to go to press in just a few days, I had best not wait for an inspiration to strike me. So I am going to give you a brief statement concerning my own ideas with regard to our Association. This paper might be fittingly titled: "A Freshman (Or am I entitled to sophomore rank by this time?) Looks at the L. L. A." The L. L. A. is a subject which touches all the members of our profession in Louisiana and one in which we are all (I hope!) interested.

To me the Louisiana Library Association is two things: it is a *Bulletin*; and it is a *Convention*. That is all. Should such be the case? I am not sure; I do not believe so, but I am in doubt. So I am posing the question for the consideration of the membership as a whole.

I think that the existence of the Association would be more than amply justified if its sole activity consisted of holding an annual Convention or Conference. To me the Conference is the high point of the year—it means intimate contacts with other members of my profession, who have the same problems that I do; it means an interchange of ideas, the solution of problems; it means inspirational contacts with national and international leaders in the library field (from "Our Essae" on down), and obtaining from these dynamic contacts the enthusiasm and undying optimism that are the warp and woof of successful librarianship; it means also, of course, plenty of "whoopie" ("Whoopie is freshman lingo for "fun", Mr. Usher.).

I think that the existence of the Association would be more than amply justified if its sole activity consisted of the quarterly publication of the L. L. A. Bulletin. The Bulletin serves as a tie to hold together the membership, to give them a common bond—a common background of knowledge; it serves to keep the members informed concerning the various activities of other librarians in the state—the school librarians, the public, the college, the reference, the university, etc.; it keeps the members abreast of important library developments beyond the borders of Louisiana; it, also, furnishes inspiration through the medium of its excellent feature articles (Mr. Usher, in picking your articles for publication your impeccable taste has made only one “faux pas”—and that was made by putting this letter into print!).

The existence of the L. L. A., then, seems justified, thoroughly and completely. But, as a matter of fact, we did not set forth to justify its existence. We were attempting to evaluate and not to justify. We were wondering whether or not the L. L. A., having these two excellent institutions, the Convention and the Bulletin, should be content to maintain them at the high standard of excellence which they have reached, or whether, in addition, the Association should undertake some constructive projects in the library field.

In the past there has been very little concerted endeavor on the part of professional librarians in Louisiana, except in the public library field through the unceasing efforts of the Library Commission — and even here a considerable part of the Commission's work has been the guidance of well-meaning lay groups who “wanted a library.”

Though there probably are others that I am overlooking, just at the moment, I can think of only one project that the L. L. A., as an organization, has carried to completion during the past four years — the compilation of a very useful “Directory of Librarians.”

It seems to this freshman that, since Louisiana has not advanced very far beyond the pioneering stage in general library develop-

ment, and since there are so many library fields which are in need of attention, some organized agency — And what agency but the L. L. A.? — should sponsor and undertake various projects.

Of course, during the excitement of a convention, L. L. A. committees have been appointed from time to time with a certain special job to do. I served on such a committee for two years. We finally made a preliminary report and obtained an honorable discharge. So far as I know, nothing has ever been done about the report.

Perhaps our Association is too loosely organized for effective administrative action? Perhaps, because of its very nature, it cannot be organized any more effectively? What do you think about the matter?

You are doubtless wondering when I am going to get to the point and list the reforms which I advocate for the L. L. A. But, that is just the point; I am not going to get to the point, because there is none to get to. I am not advocating any reforms or making any suggestions (Freshmen do not do such things!); I am going to let you members do that if you see fit to do so. I am simply thinking out loud a bit and raising a few questions for your consideration; I am going to let you do the thinking, and furnish all the answers — if there are any.

So, let us end where we began. Should the L. L. A. remain a splendid quarterly Bulletin and an excellent annual convention? Frankly, I do not know. What do you think, fellow-freshmen, and you sophomores, juniors, and seniors?

Thoughtfully yours,

Eugene P. Watson,
Freshman

EPW:mk

P. S. Mr. Usher, I do hereby return to you, unused and in good condition, 2,051 words — the balance of the original 3,000 word allotment.

Louisiana Library Association

Sixteenth Annual Conference

Honoring
MISS ESSAE M. CULVER

President, *American Library Association*

MAY 1-3, 1941

LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

PROGRAM

"Deeds not Words."

Thursday

10:00 Registration. Majestic Hotel Lobby.

Committee Meetings.

2:00 First General Session. (Ella V. Aldrich presiding.) "Deeds not Words." Welcome. (Mayor Handley, Dean Hatcher, and Mr. Kraus.)

Response. (Sallie Farrell.)

Speaker. (Ella V. Aldrich.) "President's Message."

Business.

Minutes.

Committee Reports.

Treasurer. (McGee.)

Subsidizing L. L. A. Sections. (Francis.)

Membership. (Thibaut.)

Publicity. (Hebert.)

Commercial Exhibits. (Davis.)

Professional Exhibits. (Goodwin.)

Cooperation with Library Section of L. T. A. (Hefley.)

A. L. A. Reorganization Effects. (Stewart.)

Federal Relations. (Ferguson.)

Distribution of State Publications. (McGee.)

L. L. A. and Citizens' Library Movement. (Johnson.)

Handbook of Committee Duties. (Aldrich.)

Retirement of Librarians. (Modisette.)

State Planning. (Culver.)

Hospitality. (Johnson.)

Nomination. (Baird.)

Election of Officers.

6:00 Dinner. (Informal barbecue.)

"Cajun" story-telling. (David Livingston.)

Friday

8:30 Library School Breakfasts. (Breakfast Chairmen.)

10:00 Second General Session. (John Hall Jacobs presiding.) "Forward March."

Speaker. (Mrs. Mary P. Douglas.) "School Libraries and Our Democracy."

Speaker. (Carl White.) "College and University Libraries Today."

Symposium. "Library Development in Louisiana."

Public Libraries. (Margaret Reed.)

School Libraries. (Lillian Phillips.)

College Libraries. (Ralph McComb.)

Special Libraries. (Alice Daspit.)

Negro Libraries. (Nathaniel Stewart.)

W. P. A. (Jimmy McGee.)

12:00 Trustees Luncheon. (Mrs. A. A. Lejeune presiding.)

2:00 Sectional Meetings.

School Libraries. (Hilda Strauss presiding.)

College and Reference. (Arthur E. Gropp presiding.) "Refining Process for Library Progress."

W. P. A. (Sarah Jones presiding.)

3:00 Public and Regional. (Patricia Motte presiding.)

4:00 Informal tea and examination of exhibits.

7:30 Book Dinner, honoring Pres. Essae M. Culver, A. L. A. (Ella V. Aldrich presiding.)

Introduction of officers.

Speaker. (Lyle Saxon.) "The Louisiana State Guide."

Speaker. (James Street.)

Saturday

8:30 Junior Members Breakfast. (Clara

Griffon presiding.)

10:00 Third General Session. (Ella V. Aldrich presiding.) "Books and Democracy."

Speaker. (Ralph Ulveling.) "The Local Library's Part in National Defense."

Speaker. (Essae M. Culver.) "The A. L. A. Program and National Defense."

Business.

General.

Committee Reports.

Membership. (Thibaut.)

Registration. (Jones.)

Auditing. (Tucker.)

Resolutions. (Motte.)

School Library Sectional Meeting Program

1. The Superintendent Talks to His School Librarians.—Supt. H. A. Norton, Calcasieu Parish.
2. Promotion of Elementary School Libraries.—Olive Gehring, S. L. I. Library.
3. Message from the School Library Dept. of L. T. A.—Lillian Phillips, Librarian, Minden High School.
4. Contribution of School Libraries to National Defense—John A. Super, Assistant State Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education.
5. Staying Alive Professionally.—Mrs. Mary P. Douglas, State School Library Adviser, North Carolina.
6. Message from the State Supervisor.—Sue Hefley, La. State Supervisor of School Libraries.

For your convenience in making a selection, a list of hotels and accompanying rate schedules is listed:

Majestic Hotel—Headquarters: Single, \$1.50 without bath; \$2.00 connecting bath; \$2.50 private bath. Double: \$2.25 without bath; \$3.00-\$3.50 double bed with bath, \$4.00 twin beds, bath.

Charleston Hotel—Single: \$2.00-\$2.50-\$3.00 all with bath; Double, \$3.50-\$4.00-\$5.00 all with bath.

Vann Hotel—Single: \$1.25 without bath; \$1.75 with bath; Double, \$1.50 without bath, \$2.00 with bath, \$3.00 with bath.

All hotels are within one block of each other.

The President says: "Let's all pull together" for a successful sixteenth annual convention.

Public Libraries

NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library, during March, secured the cooperation of the New Orleans Rose Society and the Better Gardens Club of New Orleans. These groups will place monthly flower exhibits in the library and the displays will include garden books and pamphlets. The first of these exhibits was an exquisite

display of roses, all home-grown, by the New Orleans Rose Society. This exhibit will be placed in the library on the first Monday and Tuesday of each month.

The second group, the Better Garden Club, will exhibit seasonal flowers on the third Monday and Tuesday of each month. The first of these exhibits included lovely arrange-

ments of sweet peas, calla lilies and pear blossoms. Both the exhibits attracted much attention and many appreciative compliments.

In conjunction with these displays the Circulation Department exhibited a very attractive gardening display.

Invitations were extended to several civic groups and parent-teacher clubs to tour the library. The responses to these invitations were mainly enthusiastic, and during March several visited the library. The Dominican Mothers' Club held its monthly meeting in the library auditorium and then visited the various departments. Other groups that have already acted upon the acceptance of the library's invitation are Audubon School Parent-Teachers Association, Capdau Parent-Teacher Association and the Civic Affairs Committee of the Association of Commerce. Approximately 100 persons participated in the four tours.

As a feature of the Spring Fiesta, Mr. W. O. Lightner, editor of "Hobbies" magazine and Mr. J. J. A. Fortier conducted an Antique and Hobby Fair at the Municipal Auditorium, March 19-23. The New Orleans Public Library sponsored a very successful booth at this show, exhibiting books and book-jackets on hobbies, collecting and antiques. Numerous booklists on these subjects were distributed, and several requests for bibliographies were received and filled. Many visitors to the booth also placed "reserves" on special books that were displayed.

The Circulation Department reports that "The Oracles of Nostradamus" by Charles Ward, was requested by more readers at the New Orleans Public Library during the past two months than any other book of non-fiction, surpassing the popularity of that of "Mein Kampf" by Adolf Hitler, which for several months ranked first on the best-seller list. Running a close second and increasing in demand is Jan Valtin's "Out of the Night", with "Mein Kampf" dropping to third place in the listing of the ten most popular non-fiction titles for the current month.

In January a group of books of interest to negroes was added to the Dryades Branch (colored). Negro history week was also ob-

served at the branch in February. Appropriate displays were set up, and 2500 visitors registered at the branch.

Community surveys are being made by the branches, and two have been completed: Canal Branch and Napoleon Branch.

The branches as well as the Main Library have had many calls for technical books in line with the defense program, and also calls for books on civil service.

Miss Dorothy Beckemeyer was appointed head of the Reference Department upon the resignation of Miss Muriel Haas. Miss Beckemeyer is a graduate of Newcomb College and of the Library school of L. S. U., and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Miss Estelle Pitot was transferred from the Circulation Department to the Reference Department.

Miss Berenice Duncan, a graduate of L. S. U., has joined the staff of the New Orleans Public Library. Miss Duncan is an assistant at the Loan Desk.

Miss Ruth Bengé, of the Circulation Department, was married on March 27th to Mr. James Wiley.

Mr. George Bowerman, retired librarian of the Washington Public Library, visited the New Orleans Public Library, while spending some time in the city.

OUACHITA PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

In September 1940 the Monroe Public Library was reorganized under a charter of the police jury of Ouachita Parish and the cities of Monroe and West Monroe, and financed through the three jointly. The name was changed from the Monroe Public Library to Ouachita Parish Public Library. The use of the building housing the library was donated by the Anna Meyer Charities as long as it be used as a public library.

The new library board consists of Mrs. Guy Stubbs, president; Mrs. O. M. Reynolds, vice-president; Mrs. C. P. Gray, secretary; Mrs. C. D. Oakley, treasurer; and Mrs. R. B. Frizzell.

Under the new management Miss Frances Michie, a graduate of the Louisiana State University Library School, is librarian in charge. Mrs. Oscar Crawford of West Monroe is assistant librarian.

During the past few months there has been an increase in the per cent of registrations and the number of books circulated. From September 1940 - January 1941 there were 580 new registrations and a total of 32,643 books and magazines circulated.

Through the courtesy of the Louisiana Library Commission and other libraries in the state a total of 219 useful books have been borrowed since September.

During this same period 305 new titles have been added to the collection and 115 donations have been made by interested citizens.

Very valuable aid is given by the W. P. A. book mending project. At present there are five W. P. A. employees who have charge of the book repairing and binding, reshelving of books, etc.

Junior Members Round Table

A "get together" meeting of Junior Members of L. L. A. who live near New Orleans was held Saturday, Feb. 21., in New Orleans at the Y. W. C. A. A very interesting review of the biography of "Trelawney" by Margaret Armstrong was given by Mrs. Bernial, a reading teacher from New Orleans Academy. This was followed by a talk entitled "Random thoughts of librarianship, 1940 - 1950" given by Mr. Nathaniel Stewart of Dillard University. Mr. Stewart's article will appear in a later issue of the Bulletin and should prove interesting to all librarians.

Attention: JMRT is planning to issue a revision of the "Directory of Louisiana Li-

brarians". The Southwestern Library Association is also planning a directory of Librarians of all the Southwestern states to be issued in 1942. Please answer questionnaire sent out by J. M. R. T. and return to Clara Griffon, 544 Govt. St., Baton Rouge, La.

Changes in position in J. M. R. T.

Jessica Boatner sent to Bossier Parish Library January 1, 1941

Mary McFarland made assistant in Morehouse Parish January 1, 1941

Personals

Alice Hebert attended A. L. A. mid-winter meeting in Chicago

School Libraries

Something new in the way of professional meetings will be inaugurated at L. S. U. June 11, 12, and 13. Those three days will be devoted to a short course for school librarians, and it is hoped that many will attend. Miss Edna Bayer, Librarian of the Franklin High School, Rochester, New York, and former instructor at the Columbia University School of Library Service, will be the visiting specialist. Panel discussions will be held on such subjects as school library standards, the school librarian's program for professional growth, teaching the use of books and libraries, the school library and visual aids, and promotion of teacher use of the library. In addition to the sessions, several social events have been planned, includ-

ing a garden party and a dinner. Arrangements have been made to house the librarians attending in the University dormitories, at a very reasonable charge.

Miss Mary Clint Irion, formerly of Shreveport, has been appointed to the staff of the State Department of Education Library Division as Director of Audio-Visual Education. Miss Irion has been associated with the Los Angeles County Schools in a similar capacity for several years. She plans to attend the Lake Charles convention of the Louisiana Library Association, and hopes to become acquainted with as many school librarians as possible.

In September, 1941, there will be opened at Atlanta University, in Atlanta, Georgia, a Library School for negroes only, the only one of its kind in the South. The director will be Dr. Eliza Gleason, formerly librarian of Talladega College. The school will be of the type designated by A. L. A. as Type II, requiring graduation from an accredited four-year college for admission, and offering a one-year professional course for the training of librarians. The annual enrollment will be limited to about 25 persons.

On March 14 and 15 a library conference was held in Atlanta, under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation and the General

Education Board, attended by over a hundred Southern leaders in library work and education. The theme of the conference was "Library Needs of the Community and Equipment and Service of the Librarian (with particular reference to the South and the Negro)".

School librarians are looking forward with great interest to the Lake Charles convention, when they will welcome as a visitor Mrs. Mary Peacock Douglas, school library supervisor in North Carolina. Mrs. Douglas will speak at the School Library Section meeting as well as at a general session.

Louisiana Library Commission

Plans are nearing completion for the opening of another demonstration in Pointe Coupee parish. Financial arrangements have been made and when the building is finished the library will be opened.

Excellent reports continue from the Bossier demonstration, where a series of discussion groups, book reviews and well planned publicity are all being used effectively in making the population of the parish conscious of the library's services.

The Bossier City discussion group has considered such subjects as air defense, led by a lieutenant from Barksdale Field, parish welfare work, led by the head of the parish welfare department, fire prevention, with the Bossier City fire chief in charge, and concentration of power in Washington. A new group was started in Plain Dealing this month, with Dr. Pierce Cline, Centenary College president, leading the first discussion.

In arranging the book reviews, it has been the policy to have the talks given by persons not on the library staff, in order to develop the talent already in the parish.

Included in the publicity plans are the distribution of pamphlets and booklists both in the library and by outside agencies. The grocery stores distributed lists on "books that will help you in your homemaking"; pamphlets giving general information about the

library's services "Do you know", were sent with the monthly statements of the Benton water and gas departments, the Bossier City water department, two drug stores and a furniture store; another pamphlet "money, earning and spending it", was mailed with bank statements, and other booklists have been given out at various service club meetings.

Another very good idea is the outdoor advertising planned by the library. Arrangement was made with a billboard company for outdoor advertising, free space on three billboards being given to the library, which pays for the posters. The words on one of the posters are "Do you know how to write better business letters? Find the answer at the Bossier parish library demonstration," while on the other two are "Do you know how to figure your income tax? Find the answer at the Bossier library demonstration."

Still another publicity plan is that of placing posters in busses, the bus companies having agreed to give free advertising space to the libraries.

In addition to these methods, stories in the weekly parish newspapers and in the nearby Shreveport Journal have totaled 776 inches since the library opened in September.

A more personalized form of publicizing the library has been the monthly news letters

telling of the library's activities and progress which are sent to library board members, all parish officials, officers of the parish citizens' library movement and other interested citizens.

These letters are a particularly important part of publicity for it assures that leading people are kept fully informed on the library's work.

The results of these efforts are obvious in the library's circulation and registration figures for the period since its opening on September 20 to January 31: a total circulation of 27,001 books of which 15,370 were read by adults; and a total registration of 2,895 with 1,699 adult registrants.

Distinctly an honor for Louisiana was the selection of its library program for a two months' survey by Miss Hildamar Escalante of Venezuela, who arrived in Baton Rouge in February and will make a tour of the parish libraries with the commission's secretary during her stay here. In the United States on a three-year fellowship from her government for the purpose of studying American libraries, Miss Escalante is making a survey of the library systems of Ohio, Louisiana and Tennessee through a grant from this nation's state department.

She has already worked in the Library of Congress, going there after a year's course in library science at Columbia university. Upon her return to Venezuela she plans to inaugurate a system which will combine to best advantage the qualities of the various programs in the states which are best suited to her country's needs.

On March 4th the library commission held open house for the faculty and students of the L. S. U. library school. Miss Escalante, the guest of honor gave an interesting talk on her native country.

Miss Culver has been appointed by Dr. J. W. Studebaker, United States commissioner of education, to serve on a newly created advisory board on public service to the office of education, and attended the first meeting of the board in Washington early in March. The immediate problem of the board, as outlined in Dr. Studebaker's telegram to Miss Culver, is the preparation of

a proposal for federal aid to libraries in defense areas. The group is to meet at intervals to consider problems relating to federal participation in extending public library service.

The commission's executive secretary presided at the midwinter conference of the American Library association which met at the Drake hotel in Chicago, December 27 to 30. At this meeting she reported on the recent activities of the A. L. A., such as the association's part in the national defense program, federal aid for libraries and rural libraries.

Representatives of the army and navy were present at the conference, discussing library plans for both those branches.

In an article appearing in the January issue of the A. L. A. Bulletin Miss Culver termed as America's "First line of defense" enlightened public opinion and forcefully reminded librarians of their part in developing an enlightened citizenship. Librarians, whether serving in college, university, public school, special or public libraries, are "drafted" to acquire and disseminate knowledge not only for training in the new industries, aeronautical training or army activities, but for an informed people, she stated.

During the recent illness of Miss Ella V. Aldrich, Miss Culver took her place temporarily as instructor of the parish and regional library course in the Louisiana State University school of library science.

The comprehensive, profusely illustrated "Louisiana State Guide" compiled by the workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects administration, appeared on the last day of February. The library commission with the Louisiana State university sponsored the "Guide", and immediately following the title page is a statement by the co-sponsors, signed by Miss Culver and Dr. Paul M. Hebert, acting president of the University. The second major work of the Louisiana Writers' Project, the state guide was preceded two years by the "New Orleans City Guide".

Miss Mary W. Harris, director of the commission's parish and regional department, recently returned from a vacation in Hawaii,

and reported several interesting facts about the library system of the islands. Entirely supported by the territorial government, the library is considered one of the departments of the government, and as such receives an appropriation, from which funds are allocated to each island for its separate library unit.

In view of the efforts which have been made for state and federal aid to libraries, such a plan, whereby libraries are entirely supported by the government, is of especial interest.

In a less encouraging vein is the failure of the tax in Jackson parish, where after a recount of the votes, it was found that the tax, at first thought to have passed, had failed by more than 5000 property vote, although in popular vote it passed by 83.

Miss Helen Hutchison, of New Orleans, a graduate of Peabody Library School has been assigned to Bossier parish and will be first assistant at the headquarters office in Benton.

Miss Mildred Hawthorn, Alexandria, graduate of Peabody Library School is now employed in the Parish and Regional department of the Louisiana Library Commission.

Before a capacity audience of local citizens and attended by important state, parish and city officials, the formal opening of the Vermilion parish library was held Sunday, March 2, in Abbeville with J. O. Modisette, chairman, Louisiana Library Commission presiding.

Mr. J. L. Fletcher, President of Southwestern Louisiana Institute, the principal speaker, said in dedicating the library, "I am firmly convinced that this movement for the establishment of library service in Vermilion parish is as important a part of national defense as the production of war materials." President Fletcher made this statement after explaining that he recently attended a national defense convention and said he believes the greatest weakness in this country lies in the ignorance of masses because of the fact that dictators can take advantage of that ignorance.

"You are building a fortress that will protect more than planes and warships those American institutions that we hold dear".

Other speakers included Mayor J. E. Kibbee of Abbeville, who urged the citizens of the parish to cooperate in keeping the library after the year's demonstration is ended. Mr. W. B. McMillan, local citizen, expressed the hope that the library would serve as an inspiration to people to broaden ideals, prospects and ambitions. Mr. J. H. Williams, parish superintendent of schools, praised the efforts of those who had worked for the realization of the library service. "This movement", he said, "will be helpful in making citizenship and I feel that no other movement is more important to our country and to nation than this."

Lieutenant Governor Mouton, in the absence of Governor Jones, who is out of the state on national defense business, sent a congratulatory message, saying that the Vermilion Parish Library demonstration deserves the interest and applause of all public spirited citizens. He added, "when people read, they think, and when they think, they are very apt to govern themselves wisely and well."

Miss Jessica Boatner, who will be in charge of the library demonstration, is a graduate of Louisiana State University, has worked in the Baton Rouge public library and in Terrebonne and Bossier parish libraries. She explained how the library would give service free to all and asked each one in the community to cooperate and take advantage of the free books.

Miss Boatner is being assisted by Miss Elizabeth Cammack, field worker in parish and regional department, who will remain temporarily in Vermilion library. Miss Cammack was formerly librarian of Tri-parish and Morehouse parishes.

Branch libraries will be formed at other points in the parish and a bookmobile will extend book service to communities without a branch library. Through the cooperation of the statewide W. P. A. library project, under the supervision of Miss Sarah I. Jones, WPA branch custodian and other clerical workers will assist with the library demonstration in Vermilion parish.

PARISH LIBRARIES

During the past three months, the Terrebonne parish library has undergone many changes, the most important being the passing of the library from its demonstration period to local control. Mrs. F. Floyd Bourg is president of the library board, other members of which are Miss Helen Smith, Mr. James Chauvin, Mr. Elward Wright and Mr. H. L. Bourgeois, who was appointed at the February meeting of the police jury to replace Mr. Ed. Theriot, who resigned.

Since January 1, the library has been busy with many routines which during the demonstration period, were taken care of by the Louisiana Library Commission. Accessioning, classification, cataloging and other associated tasks have been set up and are going forward steadily.

Statistics are of interest to those interested in comparisons. It is often a good idea to review the program of any organization by the cumulation of figures over any given period. Some of the statistics for the Terrebonne parish library for the past several months are as follows: Circulation, for the months of November, December and January, 25,217; for August, September and October, 1940, 25,840; new registrations for the first period, 411; and for the second period, 380.

WEBSTER

A unique idea for a branch library has been put in use here, with the McIntyre branch located in an old school bus body. Converted into a small neat building by W. R. Willis, resident of the community, the bus serves adequately. One hundred and four books have been placed at the branch and others will be added. The branch will be opened three afternoons a week, with Miss Sarah Ann Long as custodian.

This is the fourteenth white branch in the Webster parish system.

In addition, two new deposit stations for negroes were opened in February, with plans already under way for the establishment of one more this year.

SABINE

Sabine Parish Libraries' "growing pains"

will be relieved somewhat during the coming year. The Police Jury, in regular session, Wednesday, February 19, 1941, voted unanimously to let the Library have the lot adjoining the Court House for a new Library building. Of course, the tax renewal will have to come first, possibly November 1941, but we are dreaming up a lovely new "shelf-house" for our growing institution.

Miss Marjory Brown, for almost four years assistant parish librarian, is now area supervisor of the WPA library project for Morehouse, Concordia, Ouachita, and Richland Parishes. Her headquarters will be in Bastrop.

Sabine is now giving library service to the entire Parish. Negro service was started in August, 1940, in Many, and now has been spread to Fisher, Florien, Zwolle and soon to Belmont.

Of the entire 23,586 population, 8500 are now registered, almost one-fourth of the population. The 1940 circulation was 257,482, from 24 branches and 2 stations. This is a little over 10 books per year for each resident and about 30 per year for each borrower.

The cost to circulate a book to a borrower is three cents. A two mill tax is collected for this purpose, plus about one hundred dollars per year for fines.

CADDO PARISH EXTENSION OF SHREVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, SHREVEPORT, LA.

The greatest circulation recorded in the 10 years' existence of Caddo library is reported for 1940 with a total of 62,272 books circulated. January's circulation of 6,314, the largest monthly circulation recorded, seems indicative of a steady growth in circulation. Because of a shortage in shelf space, a public meeting was recently called at Vivian to which representatives from all clubs and interested citizens were invited. Each group represented pledged itself to a share in the cost of complete new shelves, which are being built by the Manual Training Class at the high school.

EAST BATON ROUGE

Weekly book review hours are held at the Baton Rouge Parish Library for the Library staff members, each taking turn in presenting the reviews. This has proved enjoyable and beneficial in learning about the book collection. The plan has been in operation five months and has become an established practice for the staff.

Seventh Ward Branch opening on February 5th is the fifth branch to open in the parish. Located in the Seventh Ward School house with Lovie Harrell, one of the teachers, as branch custodian, it is open daily from 2-3 p.m. The opening day celebration was presided over by Frank L. Barrow, president of the Library Board of Control. Special guests were Mary W. Harris and Thelma Johnson of the Louisiana Library Commission.

At the end of its first complete year the circulation of books at the East Baton Rouge Parish Library totaled 115,829. This number is conditioned by a limit of two books per borrower until October 15, 1940 and three books thereafter per borrower. The book collection at the end of December consisted of 16,629 books, 1826 of which are loaned

to the Library by the Louisiana Library Commission. The number of active borrower's at the library at the end of December was 8316, two-thirds of which are adult.

The library growth has necessitated an addition to the staff, and Miss Nell Russell, former librarian of the Parker Dormitory Library, L. S. U., on February 1, 1941 was added to the staff as assistant in circulation, reference, and work with children.

At the suggestion of Miss Evelyn Peters of New Orleans who reported the use by the schools of the picture collection of the New Orleans Public Library, Miss Mae Barrow, Mrs. L. Emery Smith and Miss Margaret Reed visited Miss Alice McGinity at the New Orleans Public Library to learn how to begin such a service. Plans have now been made to set up a similar service here although it will be some time before it is ready for use.

Margaret M. Herdman of the L. S. U. Library School is conducting a class this semester in The Library and the Community. Using the East Baton Rouge Parish Library for its laboratory, the students will try to determine why certain people don't use the library, what use is made in town of the book stores and their rental collections, and who reads what kind of books.

College and Reference Libraries

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA COLLEGE Hammond

The students and faculty at Southeastern are enjoying the Browsing room in the new library very much. It was opened on the 16th of October with 450 books. At the end of the first semester, the circulation was approximately 900. About 75% of the collection on that date had been circulated at least once.

Anna P. Davis, Librarian

SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA INSTITUTE Lafayette

Two portraits of the late Dr. E. L.

Stephens, first president of the Institute, were hung in the Edwin Lewis Stephens Memorial Library, February 28. One, a life size profile of the educator was presented to the Institution by his widow, Beverly Randolph Stephens, and other which originally hung in the auditorium of Martin Hall was donated by the class of 1935.

Miss Josephine Pedigo resigned from the staff of the Stephens Memorial Library to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Miss Irene Pope, a member of the staff of the Haynesville High School, was appointed her successor.

Loma Knighten, Librarian

NORTHEAST JUNIOR COLLEGE

DIVISION
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Monroe

Announcement has been made by Dean C. C. Colvert of the acceptance of the plan for awarding annually two scholarships in memory of Mrs. Lillian Herron Williamson, who held the position of assistant librarian at Northeast Junior College at the time of her death in July 1939. The memorial scholarships which are to be outright gifts covering all expenses of the recipients for tuition and books at the Northeast Junior College have been established by Mr. Fred Williamson of Baton Rouge, husband of the late Mrs. Lillian Herron Williamson, and her brother, Dr. Paul Herron of Oak Ridge, La. The scholarships are to be awarded annually, beginning with 1941, to a graduate of the Ouachita Parish High School for one year of studies at Northeast Junior College and to a first year student of Northeast Junior College for continuing studies in the second year of the same educational institution.

The donors of the scholarships have outlined the qualifications to be considered in making the selection of the recipients as follows: (1) scholarship, (2) leadership, (3) character, (4) general proficiency in those studies which are essential in training for a career in library science, (5) in making the award, it should be understood that preference will be given to a student, otherwise fulfilling the qualifications, exhibiting an intention to pursue a career as a trained librarian, (6) particular consideration should be given to the eligible student who would be in financial need of the educational aid.

Dean C. C. Colvert has placed the selection of the recipient from the first year students at the Northeast Junior College in the hands of the College Library Committee of which Mr. B. S. Hamner is chairman. Written applications for the scholarship are to be in the hands of Mr. Hamner, or, Miss Mary Clay, College Librarian, by April the first. The scholarship award to the Junior College student will be announced on the regular College Awards Day in May.

The award to the graduate of the Ouachita Parish School for one year of study at the Northeast Junior College will be made by whatever method may be decided by Superintendent T. O. Brown.

Mrs. Lillian Williamson was born in West Monroe and was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Herron. She was a graduate of the Ouachita Parish High School, the Northeast Junior College, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, and the Library School of Louisiana State University. Prior to becoming assistant librarian of the Northeast Junior College, she served for seventeen years as librarian at the Monroe Public Library.

Widely known in library circles, Mrs. Williamson served for two years as president of the Louisiana Library Association. She was a pioneer leader in the development of parishwide libraries in Louisiana and labored untiringly to extend the services of the Monroe Public Library throughout Ouachita Parish. She was particularly interested in bringing library services to residents of rural Louisiana and worked closely with the Louisiana Library Commission in this field. She was active in the organization of a statewide citizens' library movement to speed development and to establish book centers over the state.

Mary H. Clay, Librarian

LOUISIANA STATE
NORMAL COLLEGE
Natchitoches

Miss Laura B. W. Jones was added to the Library staff of the Louisiana State Normal College on February 10. Miss Jones has assumed the duties of Head Cataloger. She has been a member of the cataloging staff at Tulane University for the past three years. The N. Y. A. bindery which was closed during the fall semester has been reopened, with a staff of sixteen N. Y. A. girls under the supervision of Mrs. Payne Henry.

Eugene P. Watson, Librarian

THE CITY HALL ARCHIVES
New Orleans

The Archives has had numerous visitors since my last article to "The Bulletin". It is

fortunate that the City of New Orleans possesses a collection of newspapers, printed in several languages, starting with a copy of the Louisiana Gazette, published in 1804, shortly after the province of Louisiana was transferred to the United States from France. The foresight of the Municipality in preserving these official documents, has saved for scholars and writers almost the only medium for original research.

Our file is still being added to, as the present City Fathers realize that to carry on their every day business the official document is a necessary adjunct to the City Hall. The Item and The Tribune is the organ for the present administration.

The W. P. A. Project has completed translating into English, the French Resolutions and Ordinances from 1805 to 1822 and bound them into book form. Those from 1823 to 1848 have been translated but are not as yet typed or bound, but we hope, however, in the near future, to have them available to the public.

Mrs. E. D. Friedrichs, Custodian

TULANE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
New Orleans

Training in Medical Librarianship

The need for specialized training in medical librarianship has long been recognized. With the increased facilities required for hospital libraries, and the ever-growing importance of the medical school library as a means of medical education, the need for librarians properly trained to administer medical collections has become an urgent one. Library schools are primarily interested in the general types of library work, and little attention has been given to the distinctive features of this special field, characterized as it is by a different nomenclature, different reference tools and widely different problems of administration. As a result, in choosing between a trained librarian without medical experience and an untrained person familiar with medical terminology, too often the library school training has been sacrificed, with consequent loss to the library of trained professional service.

Just as hospital experience is an essential part of medical education, so practical experience in a medical library is the preferred form of specialized training for medical librarianship. In recognition of this fact, the Orleans Parish Medical Society on October 1, 1940, established a residency in medical library work. Requisite qualifications for appointment include college and library school training and an evidence of fitness for this type of work, by personality and aptitude. The appointment carries a salary and is for a term of twelve months, subject to temporary extension by mutual consent.

The work is done in the Library of the Orleans Parish Medical Society and the Rudolph Matas Medical Library of Tulane University, cooperating units of a joint administration, comprising a collection of more than 60,000 volumes. These libraries offer unusual opportunities for such practice work, in that their facilities are used alike by the practicing physicians of New Orleans, and the faculty and student groups of two medical schools. The course is personally directed by the Librarian in Charge of these two libraries, and proposes to cover a study of the various phases of medical library administration as used in these libraries and a comparison with varying methods used elsewhere.

It is believed that such a course will serve an admirable purpose in fitting properly trained and carefully selected persons, for this highly specialized type of library work. Anyone wishing to secure further information relative to this newly established residency, should address the Librarian, Orleans Parish Medical Society, 1430 Tulane Ave., New Orleans.

Mary Louise Marshall, Librarian

TULANE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
MIDDLE AMERICAN RESEARCH
INSTITUTE
New Orleans

Mr. Gropp attended the Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association which convened in Washington in its fourth annual convention, February 20-21. He acted as chairman of the Committee on

Resolutions of the convention and delivered a paper on "Research Needs in the Field of Inter-American Relations with respect to Libraries". Attending the convention were several Latin American librarians: Sr. E. E. Gaudie-Ley of the National Library of Rio de Janeiro; Dr. Jorge Aguayo, Assistant Director of the library of the University of Havana; and Dr. Rubén Vargas Ugarte, S. J., of the Library of the Catholic University in Lima, Peru.

A number of visitors from Latin America, in the United States under the auspices of the Division of Cultural Relations of the Department of State, visited the library of the Middle American Research Institute while guests of Tulane University: Sr. Mario J. Buschiazzi, architect from Buenos Aires; Sr. Erico Verissimo, novelist and publisher from Porto Alegre, Brazil; Commander Fernando Romero, officer in the Peruvian navy and instructor in the Naval College in Lima; and Dr. Luis E. Valcarcel, director of the National Museum in Lima.

Arthur E. Gropp, Librarian

CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

Shreveport

Mrs. A. O. Alben was recently appointed a member of the Centenary College Library staff. She will have charge of the new Science Departmental Library in the newly constructed Jackson Hall. Mrs. Alben attended the University of Illinois Library School and for two years worked in the Order Department of the University of Illinois Library. She also served in the capacity of serial and binding librarian and of classifier in the Catalog Department at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. Two years ago Mrs. Alben organized and cataloged the library of Southfield School in Shreveport, and continued there as cataloger.

Lucile A. Tindol, Librarian

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE AND ACADEMY

Shreveport

The work of recataloging the library book collection is now in progress. The members

of the Readers' Guild have been working actively to further the interest of their fellow students to read good literature by reviewing books for the school newspaper. During the month of February the students were made acquainted with the work of the Catholic Press Association by means of posters, talks, and displays.

Mary Lynch, Librarian

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Edward Cain has been granted a leave of absence for the current session. He is now with the Historical Records Survey, in New Orleans.

Lena Davis, assistant in the Cataloging Department, was married to Lieutenant James Gordon Bennett, of the university military staff in December.

John Jones has been appointed to the staff of the Order Department. He is replacing Wilson Burns, who is on leave to organize a central filing system and library for the State Highway Department.

Nell Y. Russell has resigned as librarian in charge of the Parker Dormitory Library to accept a position with the East Baton Rouge Parish Library.

James A. McMillen, accompanied by local architects, recently visited the libraries of Southern Methodist University, Baylor University, and Texas A. and M. to study the plans of these libraries. Mr. McMillen and Mrs. Henrietta K. Aucoin, secretary to the Librarian, also visited the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library for the same purpose.

A special bulletin board has been set up in the library in order to display the weekly world map showing graphically the principal events of the week.

Under a ruling which went into effect this year, the following members of the staff have availed themselves of the opportunity to take courses in the university: Jeanne Williams, Spanish; Mrs. Adele Nash Ethridge, Library Science; Marguerite M. Hanchey, English; John Jones and Milfred Goudeau, History; Cidellia Reulet and Alice M. Dugas, Sociology; and Paul Postell and Robert C. Tucker, German.

The Order Department of the Library has been designated Deputy Purchasing Agent for books, periodicals, and binding. Under the new arrangement, purchase orders are executed by the department and sent directly to vendors. This speeds up the process of acquiring books and placing them at the disposal of students and faculty. Miss Betty Meade, of the Purchasing Department staff, has been sent to the Order Department to work with Paul Postell, Order Librarian, in coordinating this new routine.

This is considered a step forward in university library book buying, as most of the university libraries in the country have adopted this plan, or a similar one.

Alice M. Dugas, Curator
Romance Languages Collection

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SCHOOL University

Miss Margaret M. Herdman, who was on leave of absence during the first semester, has completed the work for the doctor's degree from the University of Chicago, and has resumed her position as professor of library science. The degree is to be awarded her at the March convocation, probably in absentia. Miss Herdman's dissertation, "The Public Library in Depression" will be published soon.

Mr. McMillen, Director of the Library

School and Director of the University Libraries, contributed an article to the January 1941 Alumni News in which he pointed out the inadequacy of the present Hill Memorial Library to meet the demands of the enlarged Louisiana State University, and the need for a new library building.

Miss Naomi Rausch, '39, who has been in charge of the Louisiana State University Commerce Library for two years, was recently appointed librarian for the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans.

Announcement has been made of the marriage of Miss Catherine Rose Exterstein of New Orleans to Lt. Robert McCartney, '39. They were married in the first military wedding to be performed at Camp Shelby at Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

The Library School Students will be leaving March 24th for a two weeks practice period in libraries of Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, New York, and Washington, D. C. They will return on April 6th and leave the next day for their annual inspection trip of New Orleans Libraries. This year the students will go via Houma and visit the Terrebonne Parish Library. A special bus is being chartered for the trip. By special arrangement several of the students who are doing practice work in Texas are going to make an inspection trip of the libraries in Houston and Galveston.

Negro Libraries

LELAND COLLEGE LIBRARY

Through the generosity of the Northern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Home Mission Society, Leland College has been able to add about four hundred new books to its library. The total gift through these bodies reached \$750.00, and came as a very welcome addition to the library funds.

The library reports further progress in obtaining professional magazines for its instructors and members of the library staff.

The fiction shelves have been greatly strengthened, and a reasonable number of books in Negro life and history has been added.

XAVIER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

A survey of the reading interests of undergraduate students shows a marked increase in the use of books in the 700 class. It is observed that two recent events have contributed to interest in books in art and aesthetics: a lecture of Jan Reiner, well-known architect of Czechoslovakia, on the

topic "From Pyramid to Skyscraper"; an exhibition of the water colors and other works of Millard O. Sheets. The address of Mr. Sheets on "The Real Meaning of Art in American Life" was followed by active discussion with instructors and students, and gave rise to interest in the books in the field.

DILLARD UNIVERSITY

The program for the purchase of books through the recent Carnegie Corporation grant has matured rapidly. Based on the need of books for general, under-graduate reading, concentration on the humanization of the college library has been the keynote. Whatever the field might be, attention has been focused on the humanized phase of the subject. A detailed discussion on the "Humanization of a College Library Book Collection" will probably be found soon in one of the professional library journals, drawn from the experience at Dillard University.

In the 1940-1941 series of library gatherings known as the "Fireside Library Circle", the

first meeting was held March 2, and the theme was "Science and the Layman Meet". Among the features of the program were an address by the chief of the meteorological bureau of the U. S. Commerce Department, a display of humanized science books purchased recently, informal conversation among students majoring in the sciences and their professors, and an exhibition of scientific instruments and apparatus.

Mr. Stewart, Librarian, represented the University at the Atlanta Library Conference, March 14-16, and reported on the philosophy underlying the new library school in Atlanta.

Southern University was represented at the Atlanta Library Conference by its president and its librarian. The new library building is near completion and the program is now under way for purchase of equipment and other supplies. The new library building will represent one of the very few buildings of its kind in negro libraries in the Deep South.

Louisiana in Print

Recent references on Louisiana or by Louisiana authors, including books of importance locally printed, selected and annotated by Marguerite D. Renshaw, Reference Librarian, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, New Orleans.

HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY. — Transcriptions of manuscript collections of Louisiana.

No. 1. Favrot Papers, 1812. vol. 9. 108p. (mimeographed) New Orleans, Tulane University of La., 1941.

HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY — Transcriptions of parish records of Louisiana.

No. 26. Jefferson Parish (Gretna) Series 1. Police jury minutes. vol. 11, 1924-1929. (mimeographed) vol. 12, 1930-1935 (mimeographed) New Orleans, 1940.

KANE, HARNETT T.—Louisiana hayride. The

American rehearsal for dictatorship, 1928-1940. 450p. New York, William Morrow and co., 1941.

Harnett Kane's book on Louisiana politics during the regime of Huey P. Long is to be released on May 7. In the 450 pages Mr. Kane purports to tell that it could and did happen here, and he substantiates his statements with first hand information gathered in his capacity as special writer for the New Orleans Item during the stormy period he describes.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY. BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH—Bibliography of bibliographies on subjects related to national defense, by Clarence P. Dunbar. 13p. (mimeographed) University, La., 1941.

LOUISIANA WRITERS PROJECT—Louisiana. A

guide to the state. (American guide series). 746p. N.Y., Hasting House, 1941.

Sustaining the fine tradition set by the series, the Louisiana guide is rich and flavorful. Primitive and civilized, rich and poor, serious and pleasure loving, paradoxical Louisiana in her guide book spreads her varied pageant before us. Authentic authoritative.

NEW ORLEANS FEDERAL BUSINESS Association
—Directory of the New Orleans federal business association. 1941. 47p. (mimeographed) (New Orleans, 1941)

PHARES, Ross—Reverend Devil. A biography of John A. Murrell. 263p. New Orleans, Pelican Publishing Co., 1941.

Murrell, the arch bandit of these parts, a genius turned to evil ways with his varied impersonations and disguises, rides again in the pages of Mr. Phares' book. Mr. Phares, a native of west Louisiana has sought his information from all available sources and has used it very effectively in his biography of the notorious Murrell.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES. LOUISIANA SYNOD. — Thirty-ninth stated meeting in session at St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, La. Sept. 24-26, 1940.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION. HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY PROGRAM. American imprints inventory. Location symbols for libraries in the United States. Additions and corrections. University, La. State University, 1941.

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